

**INTERNATIONAL
NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke**

**National Institutes of Health
Public Health Service
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

International Neurological Science Fellowship Program

The International Neurological Science Fellowship Program provides opportunities for junior or mid-career health professionals and scientists in the neurological sciences to enhance their basic or clinical science research skills in a research setting in the United States. Preference will be given to applicants from developing countries and emerging democracies who are currently working or planning careers in health organizations or health professional schools. Applicants must demonstrate that upon completion of the fellowship they will have the opportunity to use their newly acquired skills to teach or direct others, or to pursue research, upon return to their home country. The objective of this Fellowship Program is to prepare candidates for leadership positions in research, academic and public health institutions. Three fellowships are available each year. They are awarded only to applicants of the highest quality.

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) administers the program in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Provisions of the Fellowship

International Neurological Science Fellowships are normally awarded for a period of 12 continuous months, although in certain situations they may be as few as 9 months. Extensions are possible under certain circumstances. The level of stipend (ranging from \$31,092 to \$48,852 per annum-U.S.) depends on the number of years of post doctoral or other relevant professional experience of the awardee. The U.S. host institution receives a modest allowance to cover such costs as health insurance and supplies. The home institution of the awardee provides the round-trip transportation to the U.S. host institution.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for an International Neurological Science Fellowship, an applicant must:

- hold an earned doctoral degree (M.D., Ph.D., D.V.M., D.D.S.) or the equivalent in a health science field at the time of submission of a preapplication to WHO;
- submit an application that contains a research plan;
- indicate in the application how the experience sought will be used in the candidate's future career and by the home institution;
- have a sponsor in the United States affiliated with a public or nonprofit institution who has agreed to accept the applicant;
- have an assurance from an institution in the home country that there is a position to which the applicant will return after completion of the fellowship; and

- be proficient in spoken English. Applicants are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Examination to demonstrate proficiency when the native language is not English. (For more information, please contact TOEFL, P.O. Box 6151, Princeton, NJ 08541-6151, USA.)

Application and Review Procedures

Prospective candidates who meet the eligibility requirements may obtain a three-page preapplication from WHO. Write to: Unit on Neuroscience, Division of Mental Health and Prevention of Substance Abuse, World Health Organization, CH-1211 Geneva 27-Switzerland. The preapplication should include: (1) title of application; (2) proposed research plan; and (3) a statement about how the knowledge gained will be used upon return to the home institution. The home institution must submit a statement that the applicant will be employed upon completion of the fellowship.

The Preapplication should be submitted to WHO at the above address. It will be evaluated by a committee composed of a representative of WHO, the Heads of WHO Collaborating Centers for Research and Training in the Neurosciences, and experts from the World Federation of Neurology.

Potential candidates whose preapplications are approved will be sent a formal U.S. Public Health Service application form by WHO. Applicants will be responsible for ensuring that their applications are complete and are submitted for evaluation in a timely manner to WHO, Geneva. The WHO Committee will review and rate all applicants.

The following schedule is in effect:

February 28--Deadline for receipt of preapplications by WHO

May 31--Deadline for receipt of complete application by WHO

August 31--WHO transmission to NINDS of applications successfully rated during primary merit review

November 30--NINDS final review and selection of awardees

Criteria that enter into the decision to recommend approval or disapproval of the application and that influence the rating of approved applications include the following:

- merit of the research to be undertaken by the fellow under the guidance of the sponsor;
- relevance of the proposed research to research problems in the neurological sciences;
- adequacy of the educational background and experience of the applicant to undertake the proposed program;
- the institutional environment in which the fellowship will be carried out;
- the compatibility of the objectives stated by the applicant and those envisaged by the sponsor;
- whether the proposed fellowship will provide a significant expansion in knowledge of the applicant.

WHO forwards the applications and its priority ratings to the NINDS, which makes the final selection decisions and provides funding. Candidates may address questions to WHO about the status of their applications.

Award of Approved Fellowship

A Notice of Research Fellowship Award will be sent to each awardee by the NINDS. Fellowships may be activated any time within 1 year of the date that the official award is made.

The NINDS will inform applicants who have been offered an award how to proceed and provide information about National Institutes of Health policies governing fellowship awards.

The sponsoring institution will provide the awardee, who must obtain a passport from his or her country, with a Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status (Form IAP-66). The passport and certificate of eligibility must be presented to the U.S. consulate to obtain a J-1 visa which is required to enter the United States to activate the fellowship.

General Inquiries

Inquiries about fellowships in the neurological sciences may be directed to either of the below organizations:

Unit on Neuroscience
Division of Mental Health and Prevention of Substance Abuse
World Health Organization
CH-1211 Geneva 27-Switzerland
Telephone: 41 (22) 791 21 11
Fax: 41 (22) 791 07 46

Coordinator, International Neurological Science Fellowship Program
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Building 31, Room 8A03
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892-2540 USA
Telephone: 301-496-9271
Fax: 301-480-9172

Inquiries may also be directed to the WHO representative in the applicant's home country or to the Regional Advisor on Mental Health Programs in one of the following offices:

Regional Office for Africa
World Health Organization
P.O. Box 6
Brazzaville, CONGO

Regional Office for Europe
World Health Organization
8, Scherfigvej
2100 Copenhagen
DENMARK

Regional Office for the Americas/
Pan American Sanitary Bureau
World Health Organization
525 23rd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037, USA

Regional Office for Southeast Asia
World Health Organization
World Health House
Indraprastha Estate
Mahatma Gandhi Road
New Delhi - 110002, INDIA

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
Organization
P.O. Box 1517
Alexandria, EGYPT

Regional Office for the World Health
Western Pacific
World Health Organization
P.O. Box 2932

12115 Manila, PHILIPPINES

Discrimination Prohibited: Under provisions of applicable public laws enacted by Congress since 1964, no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, handicap or age, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity (or, on the basis of sex, with respect to any education program or activity) receiving Federal assistance. In addition, Executive Order 11141 prohibits discrimination on the basis of age by contractors and subcontractors in the performance of Federal contracts, and Executive Order 11246 states that no federally funded contractor may discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The activities of the National Institutes of Health are operated in compliance with these laws and Executive Orders.